



Summer camp

In the words of those who were there



Summer Camp has been a huge part of my life for the past four-five years; everything that went on there has developed me as a person. Everyone who welcomed me whilst there has become a massive part of my life and part of my family. It saddens me that I have to leave now and can't go back as a young person but this transition has opened many new doors for me to go to over 18 events and become a leader.

Mark Johnson - Gracehill

My last two Summer Camps at Fulneck School have been amazing. No one was excluded, we've been one unique group who laughed, cheered their belief in God and played fun games together. There was no time to get bored, I enjoyed each

second! I really appreciate how everyone involved me even though I'm not an English native speaker. I made amazing friendships, and I couldn't imagine before that I could make such a close friendship like that with my lovely friend Hannah. I spent a fantastic week at her house over Easter and she visited me in Germany this summer even we had known each other less than a year. Thanks to everyone who made summer camp special and I recommend it to anyone with the chance to go!

Marlene Peters - Germany

This year's Summer Camp at Fulneck was unfortunately my first and last year though I had a memorable experience! Summer Camp gave me the chance to

make new friends as well as reacquaint with old ones and make many memories. During the week we took part in fun activities within our Teams (Wind, Fire and Earth) where we competed for team-points while cheering on our teammates. I couldn't have asked for more fun-filled, supportive and understanding leaders that I hope to see again when I return, myself, as a leader! Overall it was an incredible week, an experience that I am not wanting to forget!

Holly Johnson - Gracehill

My time at summer camp has come to an end. I can honestly say that I have had a brilliant four years there and I'm sad to leave. I know I'll still stay in touch with everyone. If I knew four years ago



Spotlight on
Brockweir

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Race for Life Team in
**Fairfield Congregation
News**

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Summer camp continued

the person that summer camp would make me and the great experiences and chances I would gain from it, I definitely wouldn't have hesitated going. I never thought there could ever be an environment as lovely and welcoming. Thanks to summer camp I have gained some of my best and closest friends, so that this year I had the pleasure of visiting Germany to spend time with a friend I met last year. I've also visited Northern Ireland to attend at Cultra a Moravian weekend event for people up to eighteen. I know I'll be staying in touch with everyone, whether that's heading to somewhere nearby such as Leeds or further to Northern Ireland or Germany. I can't wait to go to all the 18+ weekends and am also hoping to become a summer camp leader in the future. I really can't recommend summer camp enough to anyone within the age range, and would like to thank all of the leaders and those who organise it.

Hannah McIlmunn - Manchester

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sr Editor

The commercial side of Christmas will soon be with us, with cards, gifts and promotions in the shops. Already at Ballinderry we have started our 'Socks for Santa' campaign. Rev. Patsy and Paul Holdsworth liaise with various charities that help the homeless and those in hostels. We collect socks etc., generally items that never appear in a charity shop, to help give a small gift at Christmas time. Members of the congregation and friends buy a pair of socks on a regular basis and it is amazing how many accumulate prior to the festive season.

Many congregations already help with the work of their local food banks or indeed run their own. It would be another piece of active outreach work if other congregations could join in the 'Socks for Santa' campaign. I am sure your local voluntary organisations working with the homeless and deprived would be very glad of any help that they would receive.

Even a small gift will at least make people aware that we are concerned for them and they are not forgotten when we are all so busy over Christmas time.

Bro. Henry Wilson

MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself,

and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road

though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always

though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Prayer of Thomas Merton (said to be found on his body)

Thomas Merton (1915-68) was born in France, went to university in Cambridge and travelled widely in Europe as a young man. After a religious conversion and at the aged of twenty-six, he entered a Cistercian monastery in the United States. Eventually he was given permission to live as a hermit. He wrote extensively on religion and social activism, mysticism and dialogue with people of other faiths. He died as by accidental electrocution in a hotel room in Thailand while at an inter-faith conference.

Joint Public Issues Team Conference - 21 February 2015

Love your neighbour: Think, Pray, Vote - the third JPIT Conference - a day of reflection, discussion and Bible study focussed on how Christians and churches can help create a more just society in the build-up to the 2015 General Election.

Keynote address by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

Workshops on engaging with the media, building relationships with your MP, climate change and grounding politics in faith.

At Coventry Central Hall, with opening worship at 10.30. The conference is free, but suggested donation of £10 on the day to help with costs.

Please book early to avoid disappointment.

For more information and to register your place please go to the Love Your Neighbour: Think, Pray, Vote webpage. Or contact Matt Collins, collinsm@methodistchurch.org.uk

020 7467 5223, JPIT, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR

A Dying Fall

Sycamore leaves slowly gyrate
filtering a milky light;
parchment tough they tug
till shrivelled stalks detach
and twisting wind filled boats
eddy down.

Spendthrift gold scatters
on verges of darkening sorrel;
over drystone walls
as lichen's encrustation
resists the frost's first grip;

drifts through sheltered lanes
where heady scent still lingers
from brambles' fallen fruits -
forgotten now
which richly compost
next spring's ditches.

And the tree's deliberate dying
signals yet again
that cycle of sap rising
with the winged seed's
promise.

Margaret Connor

YOUTH
ZONE

Latest news from the Provincial Youth and Children's Office

Joy's Journal



Well, August has gone in a flash and I've no idea what I've done during the month! I know that it was rather depressing sitting at my desk when everyone seemed to be on holiday. I did have some time off during the month to recover from summer camp - that takes at least a week - although I didn't take quite that much time. The unpacking and putting everything away always seems such a chore as summer camp is over and done for the year, but it has to be done. The paperwork has to be sorted out, shredded or prepared for storage and the reports have to be written.

Analysis of the young people's feedback is important as it helps us to identify the things the young people enjoy about camp and also the things that are not so good. This year there was a great variety in the responses with no particular activity coming out way ahead of the others either just good or bad. For the first time since I started doing camp there were no complaints about the food, the ladies of Fulneck kitchen seemed to have kept everyone happy.

There are still camp tasks to be done, sorting photographs as this year I just gave a camera to various people at various times so I've no idea of what there is. That should be interesting. The Messenger report is nearly done with the young people writing it this year. This doesn't mean I do no work just I have to ask them, then chase them up for their pieces.

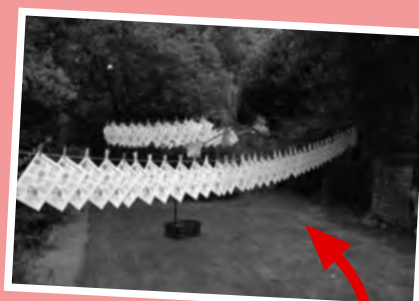
Connect 2014 happened very successfully and I tried to keep up with the Facebook

postings of pictures. I am sure there will be an article for you all to see how much of an impact this made on the group of young adults who went. I have to say seeing what a great time they were having made the preparation work and all those hours of trawling for flights worthwhile. Zoe Ferdinand and Roberta Hoey did most of the work but I provided

the wall for them to bounce ideas off. They are good examples of young adults who take an idea and make it happen.

My bank holiday was spent working, but not for the Moravian church (although I answered the 'Who are they?' several times) but as a volunteer at the Greenbelt Festival. I took some leave as the team I was working with started on the Thursday. It was fantastic to say 'I can't make that decision you'll have to ask the boss', something I rarely do in my real life. Volunteering on the team I was with was certainly hard work, moving tables and chairs, and involved me talking to lots of different people as well as quickly learning where various venues on the site were. The bank machines seemed very popular. I didn't get to many talks or concerts but I could have done if I had wanted to. It was still a fantastic experience and a retreat from my everyday life.

So on to September. My diary is filling up. If you want me to come and talk to you, provide a training or just to chat an idea through, drop me an e mail (joy.raynor@btconnect.com) or give me a ring (01753 553549).



Aftermath - trying to get the tent dry

Witness to the mud!



A word from the editor

A Scots song, composed in opposition to the 1707 Act of Union with England, took on new life recently. The refrain goes:

Let the love of our land's sacred rights

To the love of our people succeed

Let friendship and honour unite

And flourish on both sides the Tweed

- the Tweed being the river that separates England and Scotland.

Many of us will have prayed for the people of Scotland during the referendum. There are certainly two clear winners.

One is that people have engaged: 97% of citizens registered, and over 80% cast their vote. The other is the prominence given to social need, healthcare; an end to legislation that has seen some people left without essential

benefits, queueing at foodbanks, while others receive obscene bonuses on top of high salaries. We frequently heard expressed a desire for a kinder, more equal society. People spoke on both sides about the economy as something that underpins society and makes it work, not an end in itself.

There is much that we can see in terms of Gospel values, especially as we seek through our congregations to support those who struggle as winter comes here and climate change and inequalities prevent people elsewhere having life in its fullness.

Perhaps the Scottish referendum has provided a chance to review the ways we can aim for a society where every person counts, in friendship and honour throughout the United Kingdom. It was noticeable in Scotland how much the churches played their part in engaging with, and often hosting the debate.

Editor's correction The shoe-making firm in Bedford ('Rumours of War, September 2014 MM, 98) was of course Barrett's!

GIVE MY LOVE TO EVERYBODY

- 1 O be joyful in the Lord:
Sing his praises, hear his word!
Let our souls with love o'erflow,
Help the world his grace to know.
- 2 Sing his praises, hear his word:
Jesus, Saviour, light afford;
Through unknowing be our guide,
Ever with us by our side.
- 3 Let our souls with love o'erflow,
Showing others as we go
that we follow Christ, God's Son,
and in him we all are one.
- 4 Help the world his grace to know;
Seed the message, let it grow
round the world and never cease:
Tell of God's own gift of peace.
- 5 Joyfully we hail you, Lord:
sing your praise; receive your Word
share your message every day:
"Love to all" along life's way.

Music: "Lauds" (J Wilson). Words: Paul Gubi, 2009



Book Review

'Count Zinzendorf: First fruit' by Janet and Geoff Benge

YWAM Publishing, Seattle 2005.

Having had an inspirational and amazing week visiting Herrnhut, Berthelsdorf and Gross-Hennersdorf, I bought this book from the shop on the corner of Comenius Stasse in Herrnhut, because it was one of the few books in English on Moravian History that they sold, and that I hadn't yet read. Knowing that I had a thirteen-hour train journey to make back to England, I made myself comfortable and began it. Occasionally breaking off to glimpse the wonderful German scenery, I had read it completely from cover to cover (all 183 pages) by the time I had reached Brussels Midi - such is its readability and ability to hold the reader's interest.

This book is one of the 'Christian Heroes: Then and Now' series. It covers the life of Count Zinzendorf, from birth to death. It is well-researched, but written as an inspirational narrative (a sort of historical novel), rather than as a dry, academic, historical tome. As such, some will look down their noses at it, but I really enjoyed it. There was one historical inaccuracy that I noticed (i.e. the authors call the boy that Leonard Dober bought back from St. Thomas, 'Oly', when in fact his gravestone that I saw in God's Acre at

Herrnhut calls him 'Joshua'), and there may be other inaccuracies; but I certainly found the contents inspirational, and I would recommend all Moravians to read it. It was particularly profound for me, having just visited all of the sights and places in and around Herrnhut that are mentioned in the book, and had stood where the great man had briefly lived in his castle. Zinzendorf's journeys are vividly described, as is the early missionary work (both successes and tragedies). Zinzendorf is presented as an extraordinary, yet very ordinary, human being. He may have been small in stature, but he was certainly great in his faith, achievements and generosity.

I put the book down feeling very much moved by it, and with a real sense of pride that I was part of the stewardship and continuation of this wonderful narrative. I am convinced that all Moravians should visit Herrnhut, armed with the knowledge contained in this book, as a way to impart a sense of being part of a bigger and very powerful narrative that could once again inspire our personal faith, province and congregations.

Revd Dr Peter M. Gubi

Elections for the New Provincial Committees

We have two new Provincial Committees and we are looking for interested, passionate, committed people who wish to serve the Church and the Province by being members of these committees.

Each committee needs four elected members. Usually elections for Provincial Committees take place at Synod after a nomination process. However the proper nomination procedure could not take place at our last Synod as the Committees had only just been established. So a postal election for these Synod seats is being arranged. This election is following the same procedures as outlined in our Book of Order for the postal election of a member of the Provincial Board (section 3.1.a.2)

The nomination process is as follows:

Those who wish to offer for election to serve on these committees should fill in an official nomination form. This nomination form overleaf, once completed should be sent to Sr Gillian Taylor at Moravian Church House, 5 Muswell Hill, London N10 3TJ. The closing date for nomination forms to arrive at Church House is 5pm on 31 October 2014. Once the closing date is passed PEC will collate the forms and copy them for circulation, along with the ballot papers to Church Committees and to ministers. Each Church Committee and each ex officio member of Synod is entitled to one vote. The ex officio members of Synod are the members of the Provincial Board, Bishops who are resident in the British Province, Ministers in active service in the British Province and the two members of the Church holding the posts of Advocatus Unitatis Fratrum in Anglia and Secretarius Unitatis Fratrum in Anglia. Once the votes have been made the ballot forms should be returned to Sr Taylor at Church House for counting. The nomination papers must be shredded once voting has taken place.

The Book of Order sets out that people elected to Provincial Committees ordinarily serve for a term of four years and that each synod half the committee are up for re-election. In order for this to happen at Synod 2016 the two people elected with the highest number of votes will serve on the relevant committee for a four year term. The other two people elected will serve for a two year term and will be up for re-election at Synod 2016.

The result of the postal ballot will be sent out to ministers and

Church Secretaries by email and will appear as soon as possible in the Moravian Messenger.

The new committees are:

Mission and Society Committee which has as its remit "to encourage the Church in the Five Marks of Mission

1. To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. To safeguard the integrity of creation, sustaining and renewing the life of the earth.

and

The World Mission Committee with the following functions

1. To support the Provincial Board (British Mission Board) in matters relating to World Mission.
2. To encourage the Province in prayerful action and giving for the work of the wider Moravian Unity, Christian Aid and Christian mission generally
3. To publish information within the Province about Moravian work overseas.

These committees will include, as well as the four elected members, at least one Bishop, agreed by the Bishops and members of the Provincial Board, deputed by that Board. The World Mission Committee will also include the YPMA Secretary.

Nomination papers will be sent out to each Congregation and ex officio member of Synod at the beginning of October. They can also be obtained by contacting Sr Gillian Taylor on gillian.taylor@moravian.org.uk or telephoning Sr Taylor at Church House on 020 8883 3409

Please note that people may only sit on two Standing Provincial Committees at any one time. So if someone is already a member of two Standing Committees, excluding Church Book Committee, they must resign from one or both of the committees before standing for election to either of the new committees. As the Social Responsibility Committee and Renewal Committee no longer exist the District Renewal and Social Responsibility Representatives are no longer members of provincial committees.

11th European Women's Conference 2015

'Building Bridges'

Drumalis
Thursday 04
Monday 08 June 2015

Cost: inclusive of the Thursday evening meal to Monday breakfast, £210 (shared room) or £230 (single room), plus the cost of travel.

Drumalis is a Christian Centre at the port of Larne, within reach of Gracehill. Our province has an allocated 20 places and there may be the opportunity for sisters to extend their visit by staying on for a further 3 day tour at their own expense. Please state if you are interested doing this.

Bible studies, discussions and service by Bishop Kay Ward of the American Province, with workshops offered by the Sisters of Northern Ireland. The conference will include a visit to Gracehill. Our Irish sisters are eager to welcome us!

Closing date for applications: 31 October 2014. Deposit of £20 with completed application form from those who have received confirmation that they have been allocated a place. Further information from planning team.

Susanne Gärtner (Germany) sun.gaertner@arcor.de
Conchita Landbrug (Netherlands) c.landbrug@freeler.nl
Wendy Hopcroft (British Province) wendyhopcroft@yahoo.co.uk
Roberta Thompson and Kathleen Kitson (Northern Ireland).

Noticeboard Oct 2014

Church House can now take payments via debit and credit cards. This should be most useful for individuals who order from the Book Room as it will save on postage when paying invoices.

Provincial Fellowship Day

04 October at Carrs Lane Church Centre Birmingham. Theme: New Music - Good Worship. Led by Simon Dunn (Musical Director Yorkshire Moravian Singers). Registration and Tea/Coffee 10 am. Cost: £5, to pay on the day. Bring your own lunch. Tea/Coffee will be provided. Contact: Paul.Greenhough@moravian.org.uk

Diaspora News

Lynsey Kernohan and Mark Kernohan have been appointed our new Diaspora Secretaries. They will produce occasional newsletters and use social media to build links with people who, because of distance, cannot easily get to a Moravian Church.

They are currently updating the diaspora list. If you would like added to this, please contact Lynsey and Mark via email: diaspora@moravian.org.uk, or via post to- 15 Robinson Crescent, Bangor, Co. Down, BT19 6NP. If you have information or notice of events that would be of interest, kindly send to the Diaspora Secretaries.

**FOR THE MISSION AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE
AND THE WORLD MISSION COMMITTEE**

POSTAL BALLOT OCTOBER 2014

PERSON NOMINATED: _____

FOR STANDING COMMITTEE: _____

NOMINATED BY: _____ (Signature)

_____ (Please print name)

SECONDED BY: _____ (Signature)

----- (Please print name)

Please note that nominations are for four years. However in order for this to happen at Synod 2016 the two people elected with the highest number of votes will serve on the relevant committee for a four year term. The other two people elected will serve for a two year term and will be up for re-election at Synod 2016.

The nominator and seconder may be individual members of the church or a congregation committee as a whole, in which case one member of the committee should sign on its behalf. The nominator and seconder should not be the nominee.

Introduction of not more than 100 words regarding the qualification and suitability of the nominee for the above Committee

Declaration by nominee:

I _____ (print name of nominee)

am willing to stand for election and if elected will be available whenever possible to attend meetings of the above Committee.

..... (signature of nominee)

Nomination forms should be sent to the Provincial Board by 31 October 2014

Living as a Christian and a Moravian in the former East Germany

I didn't experience systematic persecution by the authorities of the Communist state, called the 'DDR' (the German Democratic Republic). But I did find that, time and again, the DDR systematically defamed committed Christians and often marginalised, disadvantaged or even criminalised them. They also drove them out of the country, after a prison sentence or, after a long wait, via an exit visa to West Germany. Of course, I also experienced the supervision of the State Security Service in all of my professional and private life.

The full extent of this supervision was only made clear to me after the fall of the DDR when I had access to the files held on me by the DDR-State Security Service (Stasi). Even completely harmless Christmas letters from the 'West' were intercepted and copied; all visitors from the 'West' were neatly recorded; sermons and prayers (in particular, for the 'Decade of Peace' marked annually in November), even prayer requests, were copied in detail by a total of eight informers.

From a 'safe house' opposite the manse, the agents could both see and listen into my private space. The State Security Service even knew which books were in my personal library, that I enjoyed football but hated boxing, and that I had never taken part in an (unfree) election. On the pretext of a border control check at Zittau on the German-Czech border, my entire address book was secretly copied.

My innocuous request to the congregation at Neudietendorf, on the occasion of a political memorial day, to walk in silent procession from the Moravian Church to the Lutheran Church 800 metres away, was construed as a seditious 'call to a silent march' which had to be stopped.

As long as the Church operated strictly in its own space, within the church and congregation buildings, the church in the DDR was allowed a certain degree of freedom. However, it was potentially dangerous when the church moved into the public arena. My father was in the Silesian town of Görlitz which, was the first to have an unobtrusive display case in which not only Church notices were

displayed but also some home-made coloured posters. These occasionally referred to social issues, which greatly angered the State Security Service and which led to the church leaders being asked to admonish my father.

We supported my father and only asked him to be careful about the design of the posters and not to provoke the State unnecessarily.

In 1985, before my ordination as Presbyterian, I came up against the anger of the DDR State machine, because I duplicated the Synod resolution 'Making a stand for peace', a decision opposing the policy of increasing armaments in East and West, and distributed it in the Niesky congregation. Had I just put the decision into the hands of individual congregation members, all would have been well. But because the Niesky congregation, on account of the tourists and visitors to the market, is open all day, the authorities threatened a prison sentence.

"Es ist kein Zufall, sondern Gottes Wille, dass Du Deine Kindheit und Jugend und frühen Dienstjahre in der DDR und nicht im Westen verbringst."

Politically, especially in the important questions of war and peace, the State and not the Church was the responsible body. The Church should be content to preach, sing and pray. In my Stasi file it is written that, in 1987, shortly before their Confirmation, I had told a group of children that they should not believe everything bad that their teachers told them about God, faith and the church. They could be certain that God could help them not only in the church but also in school.

As a young person I was never a member of the State's organisations (Young Pioneers or Free German Youth), nor had I participated in the 'Youth dedication', a crafty measure introduced by the State to stand against Christian Confirmation. I also refused to learn and sing certain propaganda songs and poems which railed against the Christian faith and the Church. Neither would I give the required salute to the flag of the State-run Pioneer or Youth Organisation which was raised at certain times in school. Nor was I prepared to serve in the armed units of the 'National People's Army'.

And so I belonged to a minority which in the 1960s and 70s, depending on region, numbered perhaps 2-8 % of the population. I could not apply for higher education and so could not study journalism as I had planned. Even a

vocational training as a maintenance engineer or as a mechanical technician was denied to me. None of the representations of my parents to the school board, the local and then regional authorities, right up to the Ministry of Education in Berlin were successful. The recommendation of the Provincial Board counted for nothing. No school, university or firm wanted 'an ideologically unreliable young person'. Not even the highest grades could change anything. After two difficult years, it was clear to me that I should enter church service. I thank God that a couple of small niches were available: the tiny 'Church pre-seminary' in Naumburg, Saarland, where I could take a Classics School Leaving Certificate; and a slightly larger church academy in East Berlin where I could study theology.

The other 92-98 % of children and young people who, with their parents, had turned their backs on the church, could forge careers in the DDR. There were very few ardent Communists among them but the State was foolish enough to be content with comfortable yes-men.

'it is no accident, but it is God's will that you spent your childhood and youth and your early church service in the DDR and not in the west.'

Because my parents worked for the Moravian Church - both were employed in the Comenius bookshop - at least they didn't have to be afraid of repercussions from the State. It was much worse for those who worked in State administration or in one of the State enterprises - and in the DDR there were State-owned enterprises and almost no private businesses. When an assembly worker in a State-owned company had a child who did not want to join the 'Free German Youth', that worker was not sacked, but was often moved to a lower-paid job or was barred from the state-run holiday camps (and in the DDR, there were almost only state-run holiday camps and almost no private holiday opportunities). Or they might be put back two years on the years-long waiting list for a car.

The worst was when the penalty was not just imposed on the worker whose family

was involved, but on the whole team, which was known in the DDR as a work-collective or brigade. In many instances, all members of a work-collective were denied the state's Christmas bonus or the lucrative trip to Berlin, because a single team member or their spouse or child had refused to comply with some state regulation.

The discovery of a western publication such as the 'Spiegel' or the 'Source Catalogue' in an individual's briefcase in a state-run business, could result in a career-long black mark. Almost no-one was held to account for doing this to others, even after the fall of the DDR. Most held on to their high positions and many, unlike their victims, became very wealthy.

I was never an enemy of the State who wanted to destroy the DDR. I just wanted to make the State and its sad society better, more humane, more just and, above all, more open and honest. My parents always told me that 'it is no accident, but it is God's will that you

spent your childhood and youth and your early church service in the DDR and not in the west.'

How wonderful that I could contribute in some small way to the so-called 'Change'. Along with others, I led the first demonstration procession through Neudietendorf. I chaired the Neudietendorf Round Table of those with influence within the community at the end of 1989 and the beginning of 1990. I presided over the first free vote in Neudietendorf and then, at midnight, drove the voting papers in the church car to the regional administrative authority.

I was able to be reconciled with some of the anxious teachers and cowardly bureaucrats who had wronged me. I could work towards the founding of two free Moravian schools in Gnadau and in Herrnhut. And now, as a staff member of the Public Relations department of the Herrnhuter Missionshilfe (German Mission Board), I am in daily contact with people all over the world. Now I am almost the journalist that I wanted to be nearly 40 years ago. Yes, God writes straight even on crooked lines.

Andreas Tasche

Public relations at HMM (Mission Board)
in Bad Boll.

Translated by Jackie Morton.



Walter Asboe and the Moravian Mission to the Western Himalayas

Moravian missions were about more than spreading the Gospel. The aim was to improve not just the spiritual but also the social and economic welfare of the people.

For Asboe, Christianity was essential to this. Whatever may have been the intention of the Buddha, the religion as practiced in 'Little Tibet' was, as he saw it, a great burden on the people. The predominant version of Buddhism, described by him as "a grossly degraded form" was a religion of lamas or priests who charged prices to ward off evil spirits, provide charms, ascertain lucky days for planting seed or undertaking journeys, and mechanically recite prayers for magical effect. In short, it was impersonal and superstitious, and to Asboe the contrast with Christianity could not have been greater. The local Buddhism resulted in "a life of meaninglessness, haunting fear, fatalism and superstition", and over everything stood like a heavy weight the tyranny of custom.

This attachment to custom proved the greatest of Asboe's challenges and his greatest frustration. The mission had, under the Germans, introduced new methods of agriculture. While this had been successful, the local people lost interest in change. The ways of their elders were preferred even when yielding a lower crop. Better to suffer from hunger than change the ways of your ancestors seemed to be the prevalent belief.

'Old equals good' was a particular challenge to teaching Christianity. The Buddhist scriptures predated the New Testament and were thus considered better. Christianity was more recent than Buddhism so could not be an improvement.

Despite their attachment to Buddhism the local people had, Asboe wrote, a wholly apathetic attitude towards religion. They saw it as the business of their lamas to intervene with the supernatural on their behalf and not a matter for their own understanding or responsibility. In consequence their attitude towards missionaries was, he commented, one of tolerant amusement.

Education is an important part of any Moravian mission and the school at Leh taught children to read and write their native language. For this Asboe produced books of Tibetan folk-tales, but perhaps his greatest contribution to education was the production of a monthly news sheet and later newspaper, both in Tibetan. Fifty copies of the latter (the

only newspaper in Tibetan) were circulated among three million people, passing from village to village.

Because Christian converts would find themselves ostracized by their family and society, Asboe provided work producing blankets and home-spun cloth, and trained young people in weaving hearthrugs and mats, using pure vegetable dyes (and thus keeping alive a local handicraft then on the point of extinction).

Asboe never allowed the difficulties and disappointments of the mission to affect him. 'A hobby for the missionary', he wrote, 'is the only available antidote for depression and nervous irritability. Tibet teems with interest. The data for anthropological research is there before him. Writing is an undiluted pleasure which can be indulged in after the day's work is done.'

And write he did. Articles - both popular and academic - on the customs and people of Tibet poured from his pen: social festivals, disposal of the dead, local farming methods, childbirth, all aspects of local Buddhism, and much more. He became Himalayan correspondent of the Anthropological Institute in London, and collected several hundred objects which are now in British museums, in particular the Pitt-Rivers Museum in Oxford, and the Fulneck Museum. As a scholar he was following a long tradition of Moravians in Leh. (A German predecessor, Br A H Francke, became Professor of Tibetan Studies in Berlin.)

When in 1947 Kashmir became a centre of conflict between India and Pakistan, Asboe returned to England, taking up ministries in Wiltshire and later Dublin. He died there in 1965.

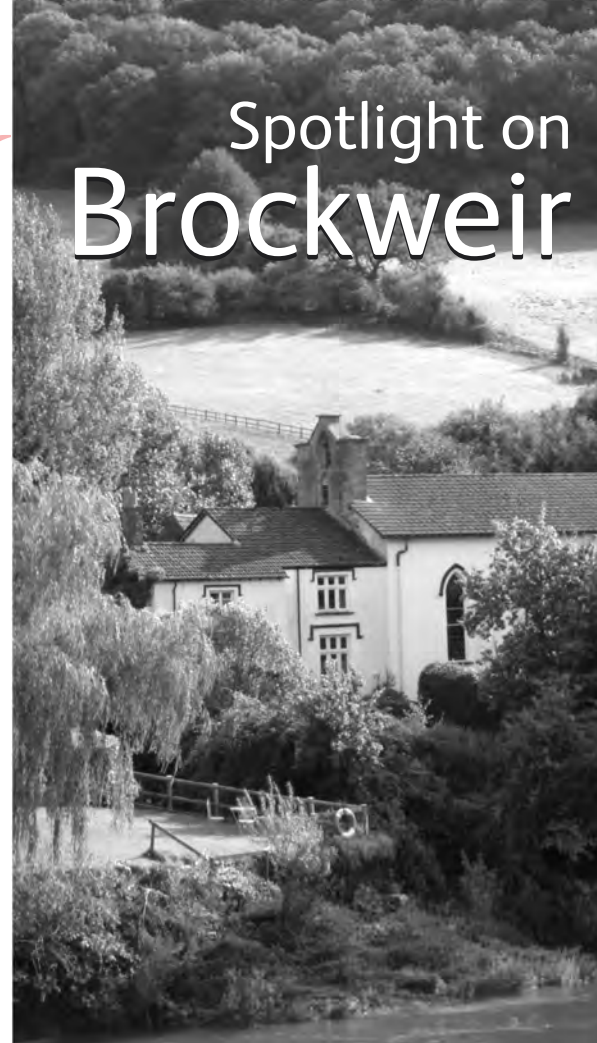
The Church in "Little Tibet" never grew in the way that Asboe had hoped. The task, as he himself acknowledged, was too colossal. In the 1930s he conceded that after 80 years of a Moravian mission there were only 150 Christians, 'jewels rescued from the dust heap of Tibet' and these were largely families who had been in the service of the mission.

Asboe was nonetheless convinced that the mission was worthwhile and that would surely be agreed by local Christians today. The Mission School is thriving and although the congregation has not increased, the members are among the most influential people in Leh.

Adrian Wilsdon

With thanks to Lorraine Parsons, archivist.

Spotlight on Brockweir



Brockweir is in Gloucestershire, on the border between England and Wales although the Post Office places us firmly in Wales.

The River Wye divides the two countries, so we are constantly criss-crossing the river and this makes for an interesting border mentality amongst villagers.

The setting of the church by the river, nestling in the Wye Valley is breathtakingly lovely and attracts many walkers and visitors from all over the world. Downriver a couple of miles on the Welsh side are St. Michael's Parish Church and Tintern Abbey and they too have been known to attract the odd visitor!

The church was completed in 1833 and was built on the site of the village cockpit. In 1832, John Millard a doctor from Tintern had written to the Moravian Minister in Bristol, Rev C F Ramftler, about the spiritual and physical state of the villagers in Brockweir. The village at this time had about 350 inhabitants and the workers were mainly sailors, trowmen, barges and ships carpenters with some forestry men.

There were seven public houses and "Brockweir was noted as a city of refuge for persons of desperate and lawless character." Br. Ramftler was met with an encouraging response and he returned

to Bristol to raise money to build a place of worship. He arranged for Br. Lewis West from Fulneck to continue the work and to build up a congregation. The foundation stone was laid on October 15th 1832 by Br. Ramftler but he died just ten days later in Bristol. Responsibility for leadership passed to Br. West and he ministered to the church for 38 years before retiring to Bristol in 1870.

The congregation has good ecumenical links with the Church of England, Church of Wales, and other denominations in the local area. We participate with other churches in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Women's World Day of Prayer and various other joint services. As we have shared Moravian ministers in recent times with Leominster, Bath Weston and more recently with

Kingswood, we rely upon retired ministers and lay preachers to fill the pulpit regularly. This provides for varied and interesting worship and because we are the only church offering regular public worship in Brockweir, we invite all Christians in the local community to play as full a part as they are able in the life and fellowship of the congregation. 'The Record' - a bi-monthly magazine - is produced by Sr. Sue Groves and this is read widely within the village and by Moravians further afield, linking us all together.

We are small but this does not limit our horizons and we are always interested in exploring new forms of outreach. A few years ago we held an Animal Blessing service which was extremely popular, and this year we were at the heart of the Wye Valley River Festival when it was Brockweir's turn to join in. It gave us a wonderful opportunity to dress up in period costume and explain something of the history of the Moravian Church and of the congregation.

Each year we hold a Nativity Walk - wearing costumes again - and we move through various scenes from the Annunciation, to the birth of Christ in the stable. We sing carols and listen to Bible verses as we journey to Bethlehem. The walk usually attracts 60 - 70 people and with mince pies and refreshments in the

Sunday school afterwards, it is a nice way to gather people to prepare for Christmas.

For the past 14 years we have raised money for various charities by holding monthly Soup Lunches. This enables villagers to interact with the church even if they are not regular church-goers and provides fellowship and friendship for people of all ages. The Village Agent often attends and distributes information of use to the elderly and those in need. Over the last year we have raised £1,538 for charities large and small, including Christian Aid, the MWA, and the Mission Aviation Fellowship.

A Prayer Group meets twice a month at the home of Sr. Mary Harris and this has proved to be very beneficial for those who attend, and often puts life and its problems into true perspective. Villagers use the Sunday School for table tennis twice a week and the History Society also uses the building once a month. A Book Club also meets monthly and over the years we have read many books with a spiritual dimension. This again allows villagers of different denominations or of no faith at all, to meet and discuss religion freely. It is wonderfully liberating. After the success of this year's Fellowship Weekend we've also decided to vary the format occasionally and watch interesting DVD's. We are beginning with Yann Martel's "Life of Pi."

We are very conscious that we are a small congregation with only 19 members but it has been smaller in the past and the church holds a particular place in village life. Members of the Table Tennis Club who meet after Soup Lunch often help with the lunch and the History Society provided a photographic display for the River Festival. Visitors in Summer swell the congregation. The church is always open and it is surprising how often people come to pray or share time with God when no one else is around. They are in a sense our secret congregation and the church is meeting a real need. We have a prayer request book and visitor's book and the comments are always very supportive. As the church is always open, we act as a collection point for Chepstow Food Bank, and by gathering food donations this allows us a tangible way to help people in real need.

Will the Brockweir Congregation prosper or wither on the vine in the next decade or two? It is impossible to say. All we can do is to place ourselves into God's hands and go forward with faith into the future, as the Moravian Church has always done.

Judith Ashton

Congregation News

Fairfield



Race for Life Team by Fairfield settlement statue

A Walk in the Park?

"I'll take part if you organise it!" Sr Barbara Derbyshire's words came to mind as twelve sisters from Fairfield, with an age range of 47 to 79, sheltered from the sun in Heaton Park, Manchester. Surely this was the hottest day of the year so far? We had hoped for sunshine but it was accompanied by relentless heat. This was the culmination of eleven months' planning and today we were raising money for Cancer Research whilst simultaneously raising the profile of the Moravian Church amongst competitors and spectators.

Our team members had trained hard: some walked from Ashton-under-Lyne to Fairfield each week; others gardened or swam; in fact the range of preparatory activities was extensive. Our fitness levels certainly improved in the run up to the 5K Race for Life event.

Two meetings had covered registration, transport and assorted queries. Travelling by tram, the 'green' option, we not only avoided parking problems but also publicised church further, inviting comment, discussion and even a donation from a stranger.

Sr Lynne Cheetham had painstakingly printed our Lamb and Flag logo onto transfers, along with Facebook and Twitter details. Ironing these onto the backs of a dozen or so white tee shirts had required patience and a steady hand!

'Warming up' before the race began was an understatement, given the temperature, but we did our best. We waited some time to begin as there were several thousand taking part, but we finally set off, walking as a team, determined to stay together and cross that distant finishing line simultaneously. We were cheered on our way by Br. and Sr. Knighton (Sr. Elsie sporting a tee shirt too) and they were at the finishing line to encourage us on our return. We were also grateful for their support to Marie Sanderson, and to Br. Mel Wood, photographer, provider of transparent ponchos (in case of rain) and general Sherpa.

The team, now nicknamed 'The Moravian Walkers', records thanks to all who sponsored it, resulting in £2000, with some money still to come in; late donations are still

welcome! The event for the participants was moving, fun, tiring and above all a time of wonderful fellowship. Several sisters, having recovered and sporting their medals, asked: "Are we doing this next year?" Watch this space!

Anne Wood

Margery Sutcliffe writes: We are in a fortunate position as we have a Sunday school. With the dedication of the teachers this means our services often involve contributions from our young people.

On Sunday 13 July we had a Morning Youth Service. It was a lovely, moving and lively affair and those attending were very appreciative of the amount of preparation that had gone into such an enjoyable service - so a big thank you and well done to all those involved.

Those who have visited Fairfield will not be surprised to learn that with all the history attached to the settlement we get plenty of visiting groups. One comes each year as Sr Janine Parkin from Salem congregation brings her new class. Here is a letter she sent after her latest visit.



Class 4 St. Mary's C.E (A) School, Greenfield visit Fairfield Moravian Settlement

I visited Fairfield on 01 July with my class of 30 Year 4 children. This is about the sixth occasion that I have taken a class on a trip to the settlement, as part of our R.E. learning about The Church and Christian Living of which, at our school, we visit a religious place of worship in each Key Stage 2 class.

As a member of Salem Moravian Church myself, I always thoroughly enjoy the visit as I find that some of the Moravian customs (such as all of the gravestones being the same, recognising that everyone is equal in the eyes of God) really grab the children's attention and interest.

As always, Barbara, Mary and Janet greeted us with a warm welcome and gave us an interesting tour of the church, burial ground, settlement and museum, with hands-on workshops. The children were engaged throughout and gained a great deal from the visit. I look forward to returning with my new class next year.

Janine Parkin

Gracehill



Work commenced on the 18th February on the re-generation of the Village Square. This involved major work to the trees, new central and perimeter paths, perimeter hedging, stone entrance pillars. The highlight was the re-emergence of the pond beside the Montgomery oak. This work has been overseen by Br. David Johnston, is now completed and enhances the beauty and character of the settlement.

On 04 February an open meeting organised by Ballymena Borough Church Members Forum was held in the Church when Bishop Eamon Martin from the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland and Rev. Dr. Heather Morris, President of the Methodist in Ireland had an open conversation.

Y.P.M.A. Sunday was held on 09 March when our children and young people were presented with their awards. Gracehill raised £2,656.26.

A joint service with St. Colmanell's Church of Ireland in Ahoghill was held on Ash Wednesday in Gracehill when the preacher was Rev. Gary Millar. During Holy Week the services were well attended as was the early morning service on Easter Sunday in God's Acre.

A Men's Fellowship has been formed

and commences in September with the leader being Br. George Beattie.

The Sisters' Breakfast was held in Cennick Hall on 31 May when the speaker was Mrs. Alyson Reid, leader of the Voice of Hope Choir and the children's choir Raise the Roof. £420 was raised to help build a school in Uganda.

We had a fantastic Village Fair in June. We were in a new venue, Gracehill Primary School grounds. Br. & Sr. Raymond Kitson masterminded the event. As well as getting the sponsors on board, they pull in all the helpers to make the event successful. This year the total was £11,000.

Some members have undergone hospitalisation and major surgery - our prayers are with them and their families.

Cliftonville

Br Fred Linyard was the preacher on Sunday 18 May.

The choir led a service of favourite hymns on the annual Gift Day service on 01 June, followed by lunch in the Church.



We were happy to welcome friends and relations of Pamela Armstrong and Rodney Mullan at their marriage on 22 June. Pamela was a Sunday scholar and we enjoy having her and Rodney worship with us.

Rev. Scott Peddie conducted the service on 27 July. We thank him, the lay preachers and Br. Len Broadbent and Sr. Sarah Groves who have given their services this year.

The annual Embrace Ballysillan youth week was held from 03 August when a party of young people and leaders from Winston Salem came to Belfast. They attended the Lovefeast in Cliftonville along with Embrace representatives on Sunday



of Sonya and brother-in-law of Tony Pritchard. Sr. Georgina Jenkins, mother of Sylvia (USA) and Roger (London) died on 31 May after a time in hospital and sadly did not reach her 100th birthday. Sr. Margaret Fitzgerald, mother of Janice, Linn and Geraldine (England) and Wilson, died on 20 August; she was able to come to church until a few weeks ago. All are sadly missed and our love and sympathy is with their families.

Edna Cooper

Fulneck

As we settle in to the summer, and the new starts that some of us have taken, we can reflect on the months gone by.



We celebrated Easter in the garden, the egg hunt for Junior Church, the early morning service in the burial ground followed by breakfast. The Lent lunches that Sr.

Brenda Pearson puts on raised money for church and charity. Thank you for everyone's hard work.

The Fulneck ladies got together to sharpen up their flower arranging

expertise with a friend of Sr Myra Dickinson demonstrating what flowers to use and how to keep them. Everyone had a great time. A big thank you to all those who have put the time and effort in to making the group blossom.

We had the SUMMER CAMP to stay in Fulneck again this year and we hope all the young people have had fun and built new friendships. The Tuesday was aimed at young children who could have a taster day to see if they would like to



take part next year, and all of the children had a great time with the Archery and rifle shooting put on by Howard and Emma Groves and their team. That evening the children had a camp fire.

Messy church at Fulneck is a great success, and everyone who takes part enjoys the time spent together. We look forward to more Messy Church together with Gomersal.

Fulneck church is looking fabulous after its makeover in July with the interior being redecorated. We are now beginning to raise funds to do some work on the organ.

Diane Oddie

Baptisms

Fulneck Isla Vera Gregg

06 July 2014

Weddings

Fulneck
Mark Butterfield and Natalie Hodgson
Michael Hall and Jackie Lunn

17 April 2014
02 August 2014

Deaths

Gracehill Br. Charlie McCormick, aged 77 19 July 2014
Diaspora Sr. Muriel Summers, aged 88 20 August 2014
Fulneck Br. Roland Laister 29 August 2014

Congregational Register

Dates to remember

5
Oct

Disability Sunday
www.throughtheroof.org/sunday/disabilitysunday.html

Week of Prayer for World Peace
www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com

12
Oct

19
Oct

19
Oct

Healthcare Sunday
www.healthcaresunday.org.uk

Good Money Week (Ethical Investment)
www.neiw.org

19
Oct

25
Oct

19
Oct

26
Oct

One World Week
www.oneworldweek.org

United Nations Day
www.un.org/en/events/unday

24
Oct

From Church House October

07-08 **PEC BMB and Estates property Meeting** The PEC

11 **Yorkshire District Conference** TBA

15 **Church Service Committee** Church House The PEC

16 **Finance Committee** Church House The PEC

18 **Eastern District Conference** Fetter Lane TBA

18 **Irish District Conference** University Road TBA

18 **Midlands District Conference** Ockbrook TBA

22 **Church Property Meeting** Ockbrook TBA

31-02 Nov **Lay Preachers' Weekend**

Prayer Notes

Sunday 5th October [Trinity 16] Matthew 21:33-46

Master of the vineyard, who has revealed to us in the Scriptures that you have planted the seeds of the kingdom of God in our midst; we acknowledge you as the rightful owner and Lord of our lives. Thank you for your loving care and protection over many years. Help us to bear fruit in due season and bless the work of our hands as we labour in your vineyard: that it may all be the Lord's doing and marvellous in our eyes. Amen

Sunday 12th October [Trinity 17] Matthew 22:1-14

Son of God, we rejoice as we consider the happiness of your kingdom which you compare to a Great Banquet to which all are invited. We think of the joy and laughter and all the good things which await all who come, and are sad when so many make little of the invitation, giving only trivial excuses as to why they will not attend. Grant that we may never make light of your call. Help us never to get so entangled with worldly affairs that we cannot come to the celebrations that you have prepared for us. You have provided all that we need: clothing us with the garments of salvation and covering us with the robe of righteousness. We are glad and rejoice, for blessed are all who are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. Amen

Sunday 19th October [Trinity 18] Matthew 22:15-22

Divine Teacher, whose wisdom amazes both your enemies and us, when they tried to entangle you with your words. 'Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God'. Truly the foolishness of God is wiser than men. You, Lord, are the true wisdom. We can only marvel as we hear your words and ask that we might never leave you. To whom should we go? You are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Grant us to build our lives on your teaching, for you have the words of eternal life. Amen

Sunday 26th October [Trinity 19] Matthew 22:34-46

Son of David, who put to silence the Sadducees and Pharisees who questioned you. Take away our needless perplexity; that we may love you with all our heart and soul and mind and so be able to love others as we ought. You have taught us in your holy Word that love is the fulfilling of the law; summing up all the commandments. Set our lives on fire with love for you, so that in that flame we may love you with all our heart and neighbours as ourselves; that your kingdom may come and your will be done. Amen

Richard Ingham

The Moravian Messenger

Official Journal of the Moravian Church in the British Province. Published monthly by the authority of the Provincial Synod.

Advertisements and all communications concerning distribution and supply should be sent to the Moravian Book Room 5 Muswell Hill, London N10 3TJ, and NOT to the Editor.

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Contributions for the Messenger should reach the editor by the 3rd day of the preceding month.

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